RAUM ON CIVIL-SERVICE.

Tenure of Office in the Treasury Under the Old Order of Things.

The Homely Old Standards of Integrity, Capacity, and Fidelity.

The Disposition to Be Made of Those Who Wear Themselves Out in the Service.

A Field for Reform to be Found in Offices Where Fees are Paid.

North American Review

Two prime objects are sought to be accomplished by the "Act to regulate and improve the civil service of the United States," under which the civil service commission has been organized:

1. To secure open competitive examina-tions for testing the fitness of applicants for the public service.

2. To take the clerical force of the civil

service out of the influence of the politics of

the country.

In regard to the desirability and importance
as to the qualificaof a careful examination as to the qualifica-tions and fitness of applicants previous to their appointment there can hardly be two opin-ions, and it will be readily conceded that the examinations instituted by the civil service commission will tend to improve the service.

Two rules have been adopted by the commission and approved by the President, namely:

I. "No person in said service shall use his official authority or influence either to coerce the political action of any person or body to

interfere with any election.

II. "No person in the public service shall for that reason be under any obligation to contribute to any political fund, or to render any political service, and he will not be removed or otherwise prejudiced for refusing to do so."

These rules have unquestionably received the hearty approval of the public. The pas-sage of a law requiring the adoption of such rules proves that a strong opinion prevailed that an abuse existed which needed this law that an abuse existed which needed this law and these rules for its correction. Whether the evils sought to be remedied really did exist to the extent supposed, or whether they were exaggerated in the public mind, are questions outside the scope of this article. The law and the rules are so eminently just and proper in themselves that they deserve to be perpetuated; and so far as they prevent undue political influence, or pressure by superior officers upon the clerical force of the government, the service will be to that extent elevated.

Little has been said of late in commenda-

Little has been said of late in commenda-Little has been said of late in commenda-tion of our civil service. It was remarkable that during the recent debate in the senate upon the civil service bill, there was no definite statement made as to the true condi-tion of the service. It seemed to be an ac-cepted conclusion that a reform was needed, and so the present law was passed. Would it not be well that some note be taken of the actual condition of the service, so that there may be no misunderstanding a few years may be no misunderstanding, a few years hence, of what has been accomplished under

he new law? The treasury department will be taken as sn illustration:
First—As to removals and appointments.

Many prominent and otherwise well informed citizens labor under the impression that the clerical appointments in this department are the perquisites of senators and members of congress, and that there has been a procescongress, and that there has been a procession of new and inexperienced persons (but who are active politicians) marched in to take the places of trained clerks who had no political backing, and who were therefore marched out. What are the facts? The clerical force, including messengers and laborers, of this department consists of 2,250 persons. Of these 135 have served twenty years and upward: 425, fifteen years; 414, ten; 214, eight; 299, five; 294, three; 469, less than three years. There have been 468 vacancies in this force during the past three years—an average of about three per week. Of these 312 occurred by death or resignation and 156 by removal for cause. The average length of service of the entire clerical force of the department is nearly ten years. There are now in ment is nearly ten years. There are now in the department one employe appointed in 1835, one in 1836, one in 1847, one in 1848, three in 1849, one in 1851, three in 1853, two in 1854, two in 1855, one in 1856, four in 1857, one in 1858, three in 1859, five in 1860. The aggregate length of service of these twenty-nine offices holders, appointed prior to 1861, amounts to 850 years. In the internal revenue bureau, which was organized in 1862, there are now six employes who were ap-pointed in 1862, eight in 1863, ten in 1864, prior to the pas-age of the civil service act, nothing short of life tenure would materially extend the duration in office of the average

treasury employe.

It is true that there was a time, not long since, when there was an annual and demoralizing scramble for certain temporary appointments in the treasury department, which were made under a very defective law then existing. To correct this evil, three valuable measures of reform were adopted. These reforms have scarcely attracted public attention, and yet they have worked a revo-lution in the manner of making appoint-ments, and therefore deserve special mention. Formerly there was an appropriation of \$100,000 per annum for the employment of temporary clerks. This find became available annually, on the first day of July, and caused a great rush for places upon the tem-porary rolls. The demands were so urgent, porary rolls. The demands were so urgent, and the pressure brought to bear was so great, that the number employed would usually exhaust the appropriation before the expiration of the facal year, and many employes would consequently be dismissed for want of funds wherewith to pay them. This became a source of so much annoyance and embarrassment that, upon Secretary Sherman's recommendation, the appropriation was discontinued, and the plan was adopted of makcontinued, and the plan was adopted of making details from the various bureaus to per-

in the secretary's office.

For many years the practice prevailed of employing clerks upon what was known as the 'lapse roll.' These employes were paid from salaries which had lapsed by reason of vacancies or leaves of absence without pay.

The amplitments were temperary but there The appointments were temporary, but there was a constant pressure to secure them, and to remain in after having been once appointed. Then, again, there were a large number of persons employed, and necessarily so, under appropriations which fixed neither the number nor the salaries of the employes, and this was another field of struggle and contention. Secretary Folger wisely recommended legislation requiring that lansed salaries be covered to the reserve and providing specific ered into the treasury, and providing specific appropriations in other cases, fixing the number of persons to be employed, and the amount of salary paid to each. The adoption of these measures worked a salutary change in the number of applications for appointment, and left to the secre-tary the duty of filling vacancies as they occurred from time to time, by death, resigna-

form such extra work as might be required

curred from time to time, by death, resignation, or removal for cause.
Second—As to the character of the force employed in the treasury department. Let it
be judged by the, old homely standards of integrity, capacity, and fidelity; commence
with the great positions, and go down through
the entire clerical force, and it will be found
that it needs no reform. As a great business
establishment it can scarcely be improved.
In all its various branches are to be found
men and women of high character, of
splendid intellectual gifts and rare cuitivation, well fitted for their respective posimen and women of high character, of splendid intellectual gifts and rare cultivation, well fitted for their respective positions. The heads of bureaus and divisions are carnestly devoted to the interests of the government, and are loyally supported by their aubordinates, with scarcely an exception. The treasury department has not been demoralized by political pressure, political patent unless it appears that the interfering applicant will after therefrom.

pointments. Nor are the seven great departments of the government in Washington suffering from dry-rot on the one hand, or from excessive change on the other. There is a stendy current of fresh blood flowing in, so that the whole body is kept in a healthy condition. No complaint is heard that the business of the government and people is indifferently performed, or that the service is incapable, inefficient, or corrupt. On the contrary, the testimony of persons who have become familiar with the workings of the departments, from actual observation, will become familiar with the workings of the departments, from actual observation, will be that the service is honest capable and efficient. It may be safely stated that, if the departments were subjected to a rigid examination with a view of removing all those who by reason of age or other disqualification or mental incapacity, should be considered inefficient, less than 5 per cent of the whole number would be found thus wanting; and of these a large number would be disqualified only on account of advancing age and infirmities.

The civil service act, and the rules made thereunder, do not in terms provide for a life

thereunder, do not in terms provide for a life tenure of the elerical force of the govern-ment; but many of the most intelligent permont; but many of the most intelligent persons connected with the civil service reform movement favor a tenure during good behavior, which is practically the equivalent of a life tenure. The adoption of such a proposition I sincerely believe would be inconsistent with the principles of our republican form tent with the principles of our republican form of government, and contrary to the sentiment of the people. It would create a privileged class, removed from the influence of popular thought and feeling, which in this country is a constantly operating force favorable to honest and efficient administration. It would repress the laudable ambition of other citizens to serve the government lin official capacities, and would manifestly tend to weaken that personal interest in the affairs of government which it is the policy of our country to foster in the minds of its citizens. The highest type of civil administration, in my judgment, can much better be attained by giving increased certainty to the tenure by which offices, are held, while at the same time leaving them within easy control of by which offices, are held, while at the same time leaving them within easy control of public sentiment, so that the whole official body can be kept abreast of the progressive opinions of the people. It seems to me it would be a great improvement in the existing civil service law to add to the probationary system the principle of appointment for a fixed term, say of four years, the appointee at the end of that time to be eligible for reappointment and at all times during the appointment, and at all times during the period for which he isappointed to be subject to removal only for such causes as may be

to removal only for such causes as may be prescribed by law.

A serious question which always confronts heads of departments and bureaus is the disposition to be made of the persons who have served the government faithfully for many years, but who, from the natural infirmities accompanying old age, are rendered incapable of the proper performance of their duties. As a rule, these persons have been unable, from their meager salaries, to lay up a sufficient sum for their support in their declining years, and they are no longer competent to undertake the duties of active private life. The service is now suffering to undertake the duties of active private life. The service is now suffering to some extent from the presence of this blameless but inefficient element. It is obvious that the evil would, in time, be greatly aggravated by the unconditional acceptance of the doctrine of tonure during good behavior, for it is not misbehavior for a man to grow old during the faithful performance of his duties in office. The question arises whether, under such a system, there would not soon grow up a cry for a civil pension list for retired efficers. The sentiment of the country is now unmistakably pension list for retired officers. The sentiment of the country is now unmistakably adverse to the adoption of such a system, and it is equally clear that it would not tend to the improvement or elevation of the public service. The exigences of the service, however, demand that some suitable provision be made for the retirement of these aged persons in a manner which shall give recognition to the value of their past services, and at the same time enable them to retain their respect for the government and their own self respect. The suggestion is therefore made whether it would not be wise to establish for such long servingand faithful officers a system of retiring pay—not a conofficers a system of retiring pay—not a con-tinuous pension, but a commutation to be paid in lump, on retirement, graded according to length of service and rate of salary. I believe it will be found to be a serious ob-

l believe it will be found to be a serious ob-jection to the system of appointments and promotions established under the new law, that heads of bureaus, who are specially inter-ested in the successful workings of their offices, and heads of departments who are in-trusted by the constitution and laws with the appointing power, are restricted in recom-mending and making appointments and pro-motions to the four names presented by the commission. Though they may have in view a person especially adapted for the duties of the position to be filled, they cannot appoint or promote him to the place unless he happens to be one of the persons selected by the commission. I am satisfied that, if the present efficiency of the service is to be maintained, it will be found necessary to relax this inflexible rule.

There are other subjects connected with the administration of the executive branch of the government which deserve attention. pointed in 1862, eight in 1863, ten in 1864, eleven in 1865, seven in 1865, eleven in 1865, eleven in 1867, eleven in 1870—a total of ninety-six employes, or nearly half of the entire force, whose terms of service range from thirteen to twenty-one years. The average length of service of the present employes of the bureau is over ten years. It will thus be seen that, even under the conditions as they existed prior to the passage of the givil service as be employed, other than collectors and other officers appointed by the president and the compensation to be paid them, are largely left to the discretion of the secretary of the treasury. It would seem that these employes might be graded as in the departments at Washington and their salaries fixed by law. The adopand their salaries fixed by law. The adoption of such a measure would relieve the collectors and the secretary of the treasury from the unpleasant and onerous duty of fixing the salaries of a very large number of their subordinates, and from the pressure

now constantly brought to bear upon them for an increase of the same.

The most important field, however, in my judgement, for legislative and administrative reform is in connection with the administration of the offices of United States district atternove marshals, and commissioners. attorneys, marshals, and commissioners. These officers are paid by fees. While the maximum fees of district attorneys and marshals are fixed by law and the orders of the attorney general, the amount actually re-ceived is contingent upon the institution and prosecution of cases in court. The district attorney is made the judge of the propriety of commencing criminal proceedings against a citizen, when out of those proceedings fees will accrue both to the district attorney and the marshal, whether the person accused be guilty or innocent. These officers may prefer guilty or innocent. These officers may prefer complaints against citizens for trivial or unintentional violations of revonue laws, may cause their arrest and examination before a United States commissioner, and district attorney, marshal, deputy marshals, guards, witnesses, and United States commissioner will all receive their fees or expenses out of the treasury of the United States, even though the persons arrested should be promptly declared innocent and discharged. It is not in human nature that such a system can continue without abuses growing up. Even in human nature that such a system can continue without abuses growing up. Even in well ordered communities it is productive of a most wasteful and unnecessary expenditure of the public money. In new and remote settlements the practice has resulted in grave outrages on the rights of citizens. There would seem to be no sufficient reason why United States district attornoys and marshals and deputy marshals should not be paid fixed salaries as are other officers of the gogernment. The enactment of a law to this ernment. The enactment of a law to this effect, and authorizing the attorney general to regulate the traveling expenses of deputy to regulate the traveling expenses of deputy marshals within certain prescribed limits, would secure a better and more conomical administration of justice; would bring the expenditures of these officers within the control of the department of justice, and would remove the temptation which now exists to multiply proceedings and institute unjust or frivolous prescutions in order to realize the maximum of fees.

G. B. RAUM.

Patent Decision.
The commissioner of patents has decided that in an application for a design patent a claim merely for a portion of the design, capable of being attached or connected with difTHE COMMISSIONERS.

trict Offices. The proposed firemen's parade has been approved by the commissioners for Thanksgivng day after 2 o'clock p. m.

William H. Murphy has been appointed private policeman at the government print-

The commissioners have decided that to The commissioners have decided that to open School street from its termination in Mount Pleasant southward to Kenesaw avenue would cost for the condemnation of property alone \$1,500, which they cannot afford. They also reply to B. H. Warner and others, who petitioned for a brick sidewalk on Seventh street extended, that the cost of granting the petitien would be \$0,000, and the permit fund is inadequate for such expenditure. They have also decided they can take no action in the matter of the government stable obstructing Fifteenth street southwest. They have canceled all taxes against the Columbia hospital property since March 23, 1873, but refuse to remit taxes due previously.

Liquor licensee have been granted to James Alman, Moses Bridwell, August Bohn, George W. Bauer, Patrick Cusick, James Ford, Mrs. Charles Greff, Robert Golden, William L. Hughes & Co., Cornelius Horrigan, Mary Martin, Catherine Newrath, John Outrich, J. A. Pierson, and Charles Schuebel, and been refused to Abraham David, Daly & Cunningham, Eberhardt Kottman, Reuben Rouzee, Edward Benchart, Duffy & Leannarda, and Mrs. John Stanton.

The commissioners went to the races yes-

Mrs. John Stanton.

The commissioners went to the races yesterday afternoon in a body.

The number of dog tags issued up to yester-day morning was 12,102. The poundmaster says he has no trouble in catching dogs now. The idea that people must pay tax on their dogs destroys all regard many persons have for their faithful dumb friends, and they even turn these latter out to be caught instead of trying to protect them.

THE Excesses of Youth are drafts upon Old Age payable with interest. Sufferers should immediately use Allen's Brain Food—\$1; 6 for \$6. At druggists.

En-Those Advertisers who so desire can have their names and address placed in a Register in THE RE-PUBLICAN Business Office prepared for that purpose in order that responses thereto coming after the advertisement has been taken out can be forwarded by mail or otherwise.

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S150 PAID FOR A PLACE AS MESSENGER Office.
S150 PAID FOR A PLACE AS MESSENGER or watching in one of Departments, by a party weil recommended. Address A. B. X., Republican Office.

A LADY, QUICK WITH PEN AND PENCIL, A desires employment by a patent attorney; reference given and required. Address MESS. M. M., East Washington P. O., City.

A YOUNG LADY DESIRES A POSITION TO teach and care for small children; best city references. Address M. D. S., East Capitol P. O., City.

BY A YOUNG LADY, A SITUATION TO references given. Apply at once to No. 1305 5th st. A MIDDLE AGED LADY OF REFINEMENT

Inch room of a hotel; references experience dress B., 1210 Mass. av. WHITE MAN AND WIFE WAST HOME VV with first class family; wife good cook: drive and walt on table: best references give dress W. H., Republican Office.

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Address EUGENE, Republican Office. 1-19

A SITUATION BY A RESPECTABLE WHITE girl, as chambermaid and waitress good references. No. 2025 L st., between 20th and 21st. 1-19

Manted --- Belp.

WANTED-IMMEDIATELY, A RELIABLE man who will guard promises at hight in exchange for room; references desired. Apply between 7 and 9 p. m. at 22 3d at. 8, E. 2-22

WANTED-GOOD TINNERS OR CORNICE Wholes at Galvanized fron Cornice and Skylight Works, 1256 D st. N.W. O. L. WOLFSTEINER, 2-23

WANTED-A GOOD WHITE SERVANT GIRL
for general housework; four in lamily. Apply
at 711 6th 8t. S. E.

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2-22 WANTED-AGENTS TO DISPOSE OF AN AR-ticle that will sell in every house and make money. Address VALUABLE, Republican Office.

WANTED-A WOMAN TO COOK, WASH, AND iron; references required. Apply, after 9 a. m., at No. 6 Grant Place. W ANTED-A GOOD WHITE GIRLOR WOMAN to cook, wash, and iron forsmall private family Apply No. 1136 10th st., near L. 220

W ANTED-A RESPECTABLE WHITE BOY about 17 years of age, to learn the profession of architecture. Address J. G., Republican Office. 2-2 WANTED-A HALF GROWN COLORED GIRI for housework. Apply at 1107 18th st. N. W. 2-1

W ANTED-GOOD WOMAN TO COOK AND DO required.

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M. A. CHERRY HAS A MODEL OF THE PATTER AND A CHERRY HAS A MODEL OF THE PATTER AND A CHERRY HAS A MODEL OF THE PATTER AND A CHERRY HAS A MODEL OF THE PATTER AND A CHERRY HAS A MODEL OF THE PATTER AND A CHERRY HAS A MODEL OF THE PATTER AND A CHERRY HAS A MODEL OF THE PATTER AND A CHERRY HAS A MODEL OF THE PATTER AND A CHERRY HAS A MODEL OF THE PATTER AND A CHERRY HAS A MODEL OF THE PATTER AND A CHERRY HAS A MODEL OF THE PATTER AND A CHERRY HAS A MODEL OF THE PATTER AND A CHERRY HAS A MODEL OF THE PATTER AND A CHERRY HAS A MODEL OF THE PATTER AND A MODEL OF THE PATTER

WANTED-A NATIVE OF SPAIN OR CUBA able to teach the Spanish language, Call at 910 lefth st. N. W. between 2 and 5 p. m. 5-20 I WANT IMMEDIATELY, A BALL BEARING Bergele, from 50 to 53 inch, in fair condition, at bergain. Call at 5, 407% tat at. N. W. 5-19

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Ast. S. E. after 4 o'clock.

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THE HAIR.—Dr. Van Dyck successfully treats the

over remove this most annoying of an incomplete.

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PLEASANT SOUTH FRONT ROOMS, WITH open fire, well furnished, and neatly kept; also plainly furnished rooms for \$5 per month. 102 14th st. N. W. 7-29

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